GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3340
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Gangetic River Dolphins
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether conservationist groups have expressed concern regarding the survival of Gangetic river dolphins on account of the National Waterways Project and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any assessment of the threat to the said species has been made and if so, the details and findings thereof;
(c) whether the Government has taken any measure to tackle the threat posed by the said project to the species having the Gangetic region as their habitat; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin (2010-2020) has also identified threats to Gangetic dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on dolphin populations.

(c) and (d) The important strategies and action points for protection of dolphins highlighted in the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan are:

i. Reduction of incidental mortality through rescue and release efforts
ii. Habitat protection and restoration and reduction in environmental pollution.
iii. Minimizing daily fluctuations in water flow.
iv. Preservation of flood plains for ensuring adequate prey-base.
v. Community involvement in river dolphin conservation and management

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